

NOTES

Arboretum Expedition to Eastern Asia. After an absence of twenty-six months passed in the Japanese Empire Mr. E. H. WILSON returned to the Arboretum on March 17. He had passed 1914 in Japan, and his last journey was undertaken for the purpose of exploring the forests and studying the trees of outlying parts of the Japanese Empire, Korea, the Bonin, and Liukiu Islands, and Formosa. From his last journey Mr. Wilson has brought to the Arboretum 30,000 herbarium specimens, 700 photographs of trees and types of vegetation, and a large collection of seeds and living plants. A picture of every conifer and Taxad of the Japanese Empire, and of every other native tree of Japan proper, Korea, and the Bonin Islands and of most of the trees of Formosa and the Liukiu Islands is found in the Arboretum collection of photographs which offers a good opportunity to study these trees as they grow naturally in their native forests, and well supplements the photographs of the vegetation of western China made by Mr. Wilson during his two journeys in Hupeh and Szechuan for the Arboretum.

From the seeds collected by Mr. Wilson on his last journey a large number of plants have already been raised, including many now first cultivated in western gardens. Of the plants introduced the most important is *Taiwania cupressoides* Hayata, the Redwood of Formosa, the tallest tree in the world outside of California and Australia, and in its young state one of the most beautiful of all conifers. Seeds of *Taiwania* have been distributed by the Arboretum to Botanic Gardens in every country in the world where there is a chance that this tree may grow. There are also a few young plants of *Taiwania* in the Arboretum nursery which can be increased from cuttings in case the seeds, which appear to have a low germinating power, do not produce plants. Seeds of three other important Formosa conifers, *Picea morrisonicola* Hayata, *Abies Kawakamii* Ito, and *Cunninghamia Konishii* Hayata, were also collected by Wilson and have been widely distributed. As a result of Mr. Wilson's visit to the Liukiu Islands the Arboretum has been able to distribute the seeds of *Pinus luchuensis* Mayr. In the Bonin Islands a supply of seeds of the endemic *Juniperus taxifolia* Hooker and Arnott was secured and has been distributed. At least two different plants have been cultivated under the incorrect name of *Juniperus taxifolia*, but this is the first time that seeds have been collected of this interesting Juniper which has not been seen before by an American or European botanist since 1827 when Captain Beechey visited the Bonin Islands.

Assistant Director of the Arboretum. — Since his return Mr. E. H. WILSON has been appointed by the President and Fellows of the University Assistant Director of the Arboretum.